

**What is Claimed:**

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A method for selecting a mirrored service, the method comprising:  
determining if metric information is required to select a mirrored service;  
selecting a service based on predetermined selection criteria if no metric  
information is required; and

requesting metric information if metric information is required and selecting a  
mirrored service based on a predetermined criteria using the metric information.

39. (New) A method of Claim 38, wherein the metric information comprises a  
predetermined border gateway protocol attribute.

40. (New) A method of Claim 38, wherein the metric information comprises  
community attributes.

41. (New) A method of Claim 38, wherein the metric information comprises a  
border gateway protocol multi-exit discriminator value.

42. (New) A method of Claim 38, wherein the metric information comprises a  
border gateway protocol local preference.

43. (New) A method of Claim 38, wherein the metric information comprises  
round trip time.

44. (New) A system for selecting a mirrored service, the system comprising:  
a distributed director operable to:  
determine if metric information is required to select a mirrored service;  
select a service based on predetermined selection criteria if no metric  
information is required; and  
request metric information if metric information is required and  
selecting a mirrored service based on a predetermined criteria using the metric  
information.
45. (New) The system of Claim 44, wherein the metric information is a  
predetermined border gateway protocol attribute.
46. (New) The system of Claim 44, wherein the metric information is community  
attributes.
47. (New) The system of Claim 44, wherein the metric information is a border  
gateway protocol multi-exit discriminator value.
48. (New) The system of Claim 44, wherein the metric information is a border  
gateway protocol local preference.
49. (New) The system of Claim 44, wherein the metric information is a round trip  
time.

50. (New) A distributed director comprising:
- logic encoded in a computer readable media operable to:
    - determine if metric information is required to select a mirrored service;
    - select a service based on predetermined selection criteria if no metric information is required; and
    - request metric information if metric information is required and selecting a mirrored service based on a predetermined criteria using the metric information.